

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAB-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 /081 W

----- 099866

R 021133Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO USMISSION USBERLIN

SECSTATE WASHDC 0838

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12889

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE

SUBJECT: STATUS OF EAST BERLIN VOLKSKAMMER DEPUTIES
UNDER NEW GDR ELECTION LAW

REF: USBER 1386

SUMMARY: BONN GROUP BELIEVES ALLIES IN BERLIN SHOULD
RAISE WITH THE SOVIETS THE NEW VOLKSKAMMER ELECTION LAW
AS WAY OF HEADING OFF OR AT LEAST SLOWING DOWN MORE
FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN THE FUTURE IN THE STATUS OF EAST
BERLIN VOLKSKAMMER REPRESENTATION. END SUMMARY.

1. BONN GROUP ANALYSIS OF THE NEW VOLKSKAMMER ELECTION
LAW PARALLELS USBER 1386 PARA 3.

2. AS A PREVENTIVE MOVE, BONN GROUP BELIEVES ALLIES
IN BERLIN, PERHAPS CHAIRMAN POLAD, SHOULD RAISE THE
POINT WITH AN APPROPRIATE SOVIET.

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3. BONN GROUP SUGGESTS THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO:

IN A MEETING NOT SOLELY FOR THIS PURPOSE ,
CHAIRMAN POLAD COULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING REQUEST TO HIS
SOVIET COUNTERPART:

--THE THREE POWERS HAVE BECOME AWARE THAT CHANGES
HAVE RECENTLY BEEN MADE IN THE GDR VOLKSKAMMER ELECTION
LAW. IN ACCORDANCE WITH QRR REGARDING BERLIN , THEY
HEREBY REQUEST THAT THE SOVIET SIDE PROVIDE CLARIFICA-
TION OF HOW THE NEW LAW HANDLES THE REPRESENTATIVES
FROM EAST BERLIN WHO ATTEND VOLKSKAMMER MEETINGS.

IF THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE REJECTS THE REQUEST
(HE WOULD DO SO PRESUMABLY ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE
SOVIETS ARE NOT COMPETENT AND THAT THE GDR IS THE
CORRECT RECIPIENT OF SUCH A REQUEST), THE CHAIRMAN POLAD
WOULD STATE THE FOLLOWING:

--I CANNOT ACCEPT YOUR REPLY. THE THREE POWERS
LOOK TO THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO ENSURE THAT THE
NATURE OF THE REPRESENTATION OF THE EASTERN SECTOR IN
THE VOLKSKAMMER CONTINUES TO ACCORD WITH THE STATUS OF
BERLIN, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHICH THE SOVIET
AUTHORITIES SHARE WITH THE THREE POWERS.

IF THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE INDICATES HE WILL
LOOK INTO THE QUESTION (WHICH APPEARS RATHER UNLIKELY),
THE ALLIES CAN WAIT AND SEE WHAT KIND OF ANSWER IS
FINALLY RECEIVED. IN ANY EVENT, THE ALLIED AIM OF
DROPPING A MARKER WILL HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED.

4. A POSSIBLE DANGER IN THIS APPROACH IS, OF COURSE,
THAT THE SOVIETS MAY REPLY THAT THERE HAS INDEED BEEN A
CHANGE IN EAST BERLIN REPRESENTATION. HOWEVER, THE
BONN GROUP BELIEVES IT WOULD BE BETTER TO SMOKE THEM
OUT NOW AND THEN TO MAKE THE NECESSARY DEMARCHES
RATHER THAN TO LET THE ISSUE SURFACE IN A MORE
COMPLETE FORM AT A LATER DATE.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION LAW, LEGISLATORS, BERLIN QUADRIPARTITE MATTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN12889
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760297-0266
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760897/aaaadhjp.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 USBERLIN 1386
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATUS OF EAST BERLIN VOLKSKAMMER DEPUTIES UNDER NEW GDR ELECTION LAW
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GC
To: USBERLIN STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006